



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

Grand Teton National Park News Release

PARK RANGERS RESCUE INJURED CLIMBER FROM THE GRAND TETON

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a call for assistance on Thursday evening, July 3, from Exum Mountain Guides who were assisting one of their porters, Matt Hoskisson, age 30, down the East Ridge of the Grand Teton after he fell while solo climbing the East Ridge earlier that morning.

Hoskisson was struck by a falling rock on his upper left thigh and as a result fell about 30 feet before he was able to arrest his fall. The accident occurred just below the notch between the Molar Tooth and the Second Tower of the East Ridge of the Grand Teton. Hoskisson suffered multiple abrasions, lacerations and sustained an injury to his knee. He notified the Exum Office of his fall and injuries via his cell phone and then managed to climb down several hundred feet on the East Ridge where he waited for assistance from three Exum climbing guides who reached him several hours later. The Exum guides attempted to help Hoskisson get down, but decided they needed to call for additional help and contacted park rangers at approximately 6:00 on Thursday evening.

Two rangers equipped with emergency medical supplies and climbing equipment were flown by the park's contract helicopter to a helispot near the terminal moraine of the Teton Glacier. From there, they climbed to Hoskisson and provided emergency medical treatment. The rangers moved Hoskisson to a promontory so that he could be "short hauled" by helicopter to the nearby helispot.

Rangers placed Hoskisson in the short haul transport suit and secured him to the end of the short haul rope. He was flown to the nearby helispot at the base of the East Ridge and then transferred into the helicopter at that location by two other park rangers who had staged at the helispot to assist Hoskisson as the short haul transport concluded. Rangers accompanied Hoskisson in the helicopter to Lupine Meadows.

Hoskisson was transferred to St. John's Medical Center by private automobile and received further treatment there.

This marks the fifth major mountain search & rescue operation of the year and the first utilizing the helicopter short haul method to effect a rescue.

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